



Recycling Lines

Electronic Newsletter

MARCH 2005

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Enhancement
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DEQ's Community Involvement Initiative: The Department of Environmental Quality is dedicated to helping the public better understand DEQ's role in protecting the environment, and to involving the public more effectively in environmental decision making.

Welcome to Recycling Lines, a look at recycling news in the Commonwealth and across the nation. We hope that some of this information is helpful to you in your programs, and hope you'll help us with news from your area related to recycling. Had a successful collection event? Have a recycling problem, or a question about this newsletter? Let us know by sending this information to Steve Coe at gscoe@deq.virginia.gov, or calling him at (804) 698-4029.

Remember the Recycling Rate Report Deadline

Localities should be working to collect all their recycling data for calendar year 2004, and completing the Locality Recycling Rate Form for submittal to DEQ by April 30, 2005. The form can be found at DEQ's website, www.deq.virginia.gov/recycle, and can be downloaded for completion and filing.

For questions about the recycling rate report form or the recycling rate calculation, contact Steve Coe at DEQ.

SW Virginia Electronics Collection Results

The Cumberland Plateau Regional Waste Management Authority hosted three electronics collection events in March. The events on consecutive Saturdays (March 12, 19, and 26) in Buchanan, Dickenson and Russell Counties, collected almost 30,000 pounds of material, exceeding the project's early projections by 10,000 pounds. Toby Edwards, the project coordinator for CPRWMA, was able to utilize both county personnel and volunteers at each event, and worked closely with the contractor, Supreme Recycling of New Jersey, on the collection strategies for the materials collected.

The collection project was both a community and a fiscal success. Budgeted at \$10,000 using a grant from Dell Inc. for the one-time collection event(s), total cost for the project was only \$4,400. Based upon a per pound pricing, this is equivalent to about \$ 0.15 per pound for the event promotions, the three collection events, and material processing by the contractor.

Web Links of interest:

- www.oldcellphone.com
- www.motorola.com/racetorecycle
- www.recyclingdonation.com

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Did You Know?

Recycling promotes the preservation of natural resources, the saving of energy, and the reduction of pollution and waste. There are a number of reports and "if you recycle..." quick quotes available on the internet from EPA, the National Recycling Coalition and others which quantify how much recycling saves. Here's one quick quote for your consideration:

If you recycle one pound of paper, you'll save:

- 2.4 pounds of water
- 1 quart of oil
- 2 kilowatts of electricity
- all of the above

What is the correct answer?

See the Question of the Month block at the bottom of the page.

Markets Up, Recycling Collections Down?

A recent article in the Des Moines Register reported that the prices for materials in Iowan's recycling bins are at a 10-year high, with buyers from as far away as China and Brazil. In Virginia, Michael Benedetto, former Chairman of the Virginia Recycling Markets Development Council and Executive Vice-President of Tidewater Fibre Corp, reported strong current markets for the materials from his recycling operations. This should be good news for our municipal collection programs.

Yet, across the nation it seems that there is a growing concern that the public's overall participation in recycling has waned, and that collection levels are falling. In a recent article, Maine reported the state is generating more trash and recycling less. At the Carolina Recycling Association conference in Myrtle Beach last week, speakers from the aluminum, plastic and glass industries indicated that the capture rates for these materials had dropped from levels reached in the 1990's. Last year the plastics industry reported that its processing capacity greatly exceeded the supply of plastics being recovered.

Is there a disconnect between the desire expressed for recycling services and the willingness to recycle? If so, why?

Question of the month: The answer given for the recycling quick quote is (d) all of the above. In 2003, Virginia localities reported the recycling of 882,941 tons of paper, or 1.76 billion pounds of paper. This means that Virginia recycling programs potentially saved 1.76 billion quarts of oil, 4.24 billion pounds of water, and 3.53 billion kilowatts of electricity through recycling.